

Burglary and Theft From Auto a Continued Problem

As we head into the holiday weekend, burglary and theft from auto numbers continue to be a concern for police officers in our area. Please follow the safety tips listed below and share them with your family and friends.

Burglary Prevention Measures

- ◆ There is safety in numbers. Get to know your neighbors. Watch out for them, have them do the same for you.
- ◆ Check the locks on your doors and windows. If possible, install a deadbolt lock on your doors. Change the locks when moving into a new home or when keys have been lost.
- ◆ If you are outside of your home, even when doing yard work keep your home secure. Burglars are often in and out of a home in a few minutes.
- ◆ Check and install adequate lighting around your home. This will improve both your home's security as well as your personal safety.
- ◆ Trim bushes/trees away from windows. Burglars may use these as a hiding spot.
- ◆ Be cautious of allowing strangers into your home. If they say they are with an organization, ask for identification from their employer.
- ◆ Do not keep hidden keys around the outside of your home. Many of these hiding spaces are common and criminals know where to look.
- ◆ Do not carry valuable items into your home in plain view. Do not leave boxes or packaging outside. You never know who might be watching.
- ◆ If you are going on vacation, be cautious who you tell your plans to. Do not leave a message on your answering machine advertising your absence to criminals.
- ◆ If you are going to be gone overnight leave a light on. Timers work well to turn lights on and off. Have a trusted neighbor watch your home for you. Have someone mow your lawn while you are away for extended periods. Arrange for mail and newspaper delivery to be stopped while you are away for extended periods. Give your home the appearance of being occupied at all times.
- ◆ Keep photographs of valuable property such as jewelry for later identification and to aid you in your inventory.
- ◆ Mark your property with a personalized identification number. This can aid in the recovery of your property.
- ◆ Keep your garage door closed and locked at all times. Lock garden sheds and secure lawn implements and children's toys

Theft Prevention Measures

- ◆ Lock your vehicle and close the windows when not in the vehicle.

- ◆ Never leave your keys in the vehicle when unattended.
- ◆ Park your vehicle in the garage with the doors closed and locked.
- ◆ Do not leave your vehicle running while unattended.
- ◆ Do not keep valuables in the vehicle.
- ◆ Keep packages, store purchases, etc. in the trunk and out of view.
- ◆ Park in well lit areas.
- ◆ Do not leave your garage door opener in view in your vehicle. Place it in the glove box and out of sight.
- ◆ Remove CD player covers and stereo mounts and place in the trunk when possible.
- ◆ Do not leave your driver's license or registration in the vehicle.